

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES MCNEIL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to recognize James McNeil for the courageous act that led to his untimely passing. James displayed extraordinary bravery in an attempt to save his father from drowning in a fishing accident. It is with a solemn heart that I join my colleagues in paying tribute to his heroism and sacrifice.

James McNeil and his father, Kelly McNeil, were fishing on San Luis Lake when Kelly suddenly fell from his boat into the water. Without hesitation, James dove into the 55-degree water and began swimming toward his father in a rescue attempt. Unfortunately, James did not survive the frigid, treacherous waters and passed away before reaching his father. The Carnegie Hero Fund has awarded James a Bronze Medal in recognition of his brave act.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize James before this body of Congress today. His brave act serves as a reminder to all Americans of the courage upon which our nation is founded. While James will be dearly missed, his family can take solace in the knowledge that his spirit will live on through those whom he has touched. I extend my deepest sympathies to James' loved ones during this difficult time.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT JOHN WOODEN SHOULD BE HONORED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPORTS AND EDUCATION.

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that John Wooden should be honored for his contributions to sports and education.

Whereas John Wooden was one of the greatest basketball coaches and players;

Whereas John Wooden nurtured and inspired many of the greatest basketball players of all time who would go on to fame in their own right;

Whereas John Wooden is one of only two men enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both a player and a coach;

Whereas John Wooden coached the UCLA Bruins to 10 NCAA Mens' Basketball Championships in 12 years;

Whereas John Wooden led the Bruins to 88 consecutive victories;

Whereas John Wooden, during 40 years of coaching, compiled a 885-203 (.813) record;

Whereas John Wooden developed the "Pyramid of Success," a graphic representation of the ideals that form the basis of Wooden's outlook on life and explain much of his success on and off the court;

Whereas John Wooden was a successful amateur basketball player who led Martinsville High School of Martinsville, Indiana to 1927 Indiana State Championship and led Purdue University to the 1932 NCAA Mens' Basketball Championship;

Whereas John Wooden is a best selling author, public servant, holder of numerous honorary degrees, and recipient of many awards honoring his lifetime dedication to improving the lives of others;

Whereas John Wooden has been honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates John Wooden for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award;

(2) recognizes the achievements and contributions of John Wooden in the fields of sports and education.

COLE A. LEWIS WILL BE MISSED BY MANY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to inform my colleagues of the death of Mr. Cole A. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was special to many. He was a man of conscience. His principles and ethics were impeccable. He did whatever he could. He was the true example of humanity. His life experiences shaped the man he became. He was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland where he graduated from the country's second oldest high school, City College. After high school he went off to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. During World War II he enrolled in the U.S. Navy's V-12 program at Brown. He was commissioned in 1945 and served in the post-war occupation of Japan. He returned to Brown in 1946 where he graduated in 1947 with his original class. Cole Lewis and Nat Brush were married after graduation and moved to Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. Lewis was employed by the Prudential Insurance Company of America. He held many positions there including pioneer systems analyst for the installation of the company's first computer, and ending as vice president of community affairs. Mr. Lewis used his position in the community affairs department to benefit social and cultural programs in Newark and throughout the state. Although he was responsible for funding many of these programs he became personally involved. He was the founding director of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, chairman of the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities, and an active officer and board member of

Planned Parenthood, the Integrity House, The Catholic Youth Organization, the Education Law Center and many other groups.

Mr. Lewis was employed with Prudential for 37 years. Upon his retirement he became comptroller of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, serving nine years. His second retirement was brief, when he joined the staff of the Education Law Center, a pro bono advocacy group dedicated to bettering educational opportunities for underprivileged children in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues would have liked to meet Mr. Lewis who would have celebrated his 77th birthday this past weekend. I am also sure my colleagues would have extended their condolences to Mr. Lewis's family—his wife, Nat; and his two daughters, Susan Kenny and her husband, Thomas; and Deborah Sexton and three grandchildren; Sarah Kenny, Austin Kenny and Laura Sexton.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED BOWLES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress to recognize a remarkable woman that is a long time resident of Cedar Mesa, Colorado. Mildred Bowles has witnessed the evolution of her hometown in the last century and simultaneously worked to preserve its invaluable memories. I am proud to recognize Mildred's contributions to my district before my colleagues here today.

Mildred's adventurous spirit can be traced back to her ancestors, who traveled in a covered wagon from Nebraska to Colorado in 1902. Mildred's father, L.E. Dolph, played an integral role in the founding of both Cedar Mesa and Cedaredge. His responsibilities included serving as sheriff and delivering mail to local residents.

Mildred has developed a plethora of memories in Cedar Mesa during the 93 years that she has spent in the area. She notes that while children now have spring break, she remembers the days when students had "mud breaks," when the spring weather inhibited any type of travel, and "apple breaks," when students provided an extra hand during harvest season. Mildred also remembers the days when electricity was only available two days a week and silent movies were a popular form of entertainment. She has helped to preserve her precious memories by performing a one-person skit over the years and participating in the local historical society.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mildred Bowles, a woman who provides her community with a priceless link to our past. We are fortunate to have her memories, which serve as a reminder of the hard work and determination that have made our nation strong. I commend Mildred for all that she does in her community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SELECTION OF JOHN WOODEN FOR MEDAL OF FREEDOM IS MOST DESERVED

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible achievements of John Wooden, famed educator, coach, and basketball player. Coach Wooden was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in a ceremony at the White House today.

What Coach Wooden accomplished during his 40 years of coaching will never be surpassed. He compiled an 885–203 record, leading the UCLA Bruins to 10 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships. During his time at UCLA, the Bruins had four undefeated seasons and 88 consecutive victories, including 38 straight NCAA tournament victories. Among his many honors Wooden was named NCAA College Basketball Coach of the Year six times. Coach Wooden nurtured and inspired many of the greatest basketball players of all time who would go on to fame in their own right, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton.

Wooden was also a standout athlete. Born and raised in Martinsville, Indiana, Wooden led his high school squad to the state title in 1927. Later, at Purdue University, he won letters in basketball and baseball as a freshman, and then went on to captain Purdue to the 1932 National Collegiate Championship. Wooden's accomplishments on the basketball court led to him being one of only two men enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both player and coach.

But it is his role as an educator where he has made his greatest mark. Wooden developed the "Pyramid of Success", a graphic representation of the ideals that form the basis of Wooden's outlook on life and explain much of his success on and off the court. Emphasizing such traits as skill, poise, and confidence, the Pyramid of Success has helped millions be their best when their best was needed.

Coach Wooden has not been content to sit back as a legend. He is a best-selling author, active on the public speaking circuit, and has devoted much of his energies to public service. Wooden was the first sports figure to be awarded the Bellarmine Medal of Excellence, whose other recipients have included Mother Teresa and Walter Cronkite. He received the 1994 Landry Medal for Inspiration to American Youth and also has a number of honorary degrees. The National Father's Day Committee has named him "Grandfather of the Year" and the National Urban League has honored him for his years of humanitarian service.

Mr. Speaker, John Wooden's philosophy benefits us all. Be quick, but don't hurry. It's not how tall you are, but how tall you play. Make each day your masterpiece. Character is what you really are; reputation is what you are perceived to be. Through his life's work and his great accomplishments, Coach John Wooden has earned every award he has received. More importantly, he has earned our respect and admiration. Please join me in congratulating this legendary coach and educator on his latest award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO JONITA WHITAKER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to an outstanding professional, Ms. Jonita Whitaker, who has served as a State Department Pearson Fellow in my Washington Congressional Office for the past year. Under this excellent program, Foreign Service Officers work on Capitol Hill, learning the legislative process and sharing their expertise in international relations. I believe the program provides tremendous benefits to both members of Congress and to the State Department professionals who participate.

Over the past year, Jonita has proven to be a shining star on my staff. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I have benefited tremendously from her extensive knowledge, her expertise in foreign affairs and immigration law, her foreign language skills, and most of all, her passionate dedication to public service. Jonita quickly mastered the many complex global issues we deal with on a daily basis.

Jonita has played a leading role as an advisor on a number of key issues, including developments in Iraq, the movement to return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece, efforts to reach a political settlement in Cyprus, the peace process in Northern Ireland, daily updates on developments in Africa, and the eradication of polio world-wide, among her many other contributions. Reports she provided to me when she traveled to Northern Ireland to witness the Orange Order parades were enormously helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank Jonita Whitaker for all of her hard work and to wish her continued success as she moves forward in her career.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY KISLING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Larry Kisling of Grand Junction, Colorado. Through hard work and dedication, Larry has received national attention for the quality of his competitive racing engines, which he builds and maintains for racing teams across the country. Larry's work provides him with the ability to be involved in the sport he loves, and I am proud to speak of his accomplishments here today.

Moving to Grand Junction in 1990, Larry set up his shop and began business. Larry's hard work is evident in his high quality products, which is why his customers keep coming back. Larry's business expanded so much that he recently moved into a new location and a brand new 3,400 square foot facility. Today he works on all kinds of engines, from forklifts to boats.

Larry's passion, however, will always be high-performance racing engines, despite the

fact that they are the least profitable part of the company. Larry does the work because he loves it, noting the personal satisfaction he gets when he sees one of his engines on the track. Larry gets the most fulfillment when a driver returns to his shop and lets him know his race car has never gone faster.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the hard work of Larry Kisling. I commend Larry on his successful business endeavors and the respect he has gained from his peers. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APSA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American Political Science Association (APSA) is commemorating the 50th anniversary of its Congressional Fellowship Program this year. I join my colleagues in commending APSA for the service that it has provided to the U.S. Congress.

APSA fellows have made a valuable contribution to the work of personal and committee offices in both the House and Senate. The program draws on the talents of a variety of professionals who are interested in learning about and contributing to the legislative process. The APSA program is held in high regard by Members for the quality of the fellows it makes available to offices at no charge. Among its distinguished alumni is Vice President DICK CHENEY.

My office has been pleased to host two fellows in recent years. Tim Johnson, a 1994 journalism fellow, remained on my staff and currently serves as my Legislative Director and Press Secretary. Ben Brown, a 2001 fellow from the FDIC, brought valuable banking expertise to the House Financial Services Committee during its formative first months.

The APSA Congressional Fellows Program merits our recognition for the ongoing contributions that it makes to the legislative process.

FREEDOM FIESTA WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in my home district of El Paso, Texas, Operation Iraqi Freedom will always be remembered for the tragic ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company. In a city that is home to nearly 60,000 veterans and thousands of troops and their family members stationed at Fort Bliss, we felt for these soldiers as if they were members of our own families. We mourned for those who had lost their lives, and prayed for the safe and speedy return of those who had been captured. The losses suffered by the 507th Maintenance Company were the first combat casualties to be experienced by Fort Bliss in at least a quarter century. These soldiers are heroes, and they are more than deserving of all of the honor and respect they have received.

The soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company, while exceptional, are not the only heroes who call Fort Bliss home. Each and every one of the more than 3,600 other United States Army soldiers who were deployed to Iraq from Fort Bliss is also a hero, and all of their sacrifices should be remembered. The thousands of soldiers who contributed to the war effort from home and the family members who offered their unwavering support must also be recognized. El Paso is a city full of soldiers—they and their families deserve our respect and gratitude.

El Paso is proud to be the home of so many of our nation's soldiers. During the week of August 3–10, 2003, El Paso will celebrate "Freedom Fiesta Week," a series of events to welcome home and honor the region's armed services personnel. The celebration will kick off on August 3rd with the "Freedom Fiesta Picnic," featuring free food and drinks and live music and entertainment. Throughout the week, active duty and reserve military personnel and their families will have free or reduced admission on selected days to Wet n' Wild Water Park, Western Playland Amusement Park, the El Paso Diablos, the El Paso Zoo, and various clubs and restaurants in Downtown El Paso. The week will culminate in Saturday's parade, featuring more than 6,000 of our Fort Bliss soldiers.

The organization of Freedom Fiesta Week was a collaborative effort, and I would like to commend the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the El Paso Black Chamber of Commerce, the City of El Paso, the County of El Paso and the Association of the U.S. Army for their hard work in planning what promises to be an exciting week. I must also thank all the organizations participating in Freedom Fiesta Week for their generosity. I do not have the words to express my thanks to our troops, but Mr. Speaker, it is with events like Freedom Fiesta Week that we can begin to show them how grateful we are for their hard work and dedication during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

HONORING JAMES DOUGLAS
THOMAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant and dedicated veteran from my district, Doug Thomas of Craig, Colorado. An active member of the Craig community, Doug is the newly elected Chaplain for the American Legion in the State of Colorado. I would like to join the Craig community and American Legion in honoring Doug's commitment and recognizing this distinct honor.

When members of American Legion had the opportunity to select their new Chaplain, Doug was an obvious choice. His reputation as a dedicated Chaplain had preceded him; Doug had done great work as both the District Chaplain and Chaplain of Post 2700. He made it clear at the state conference that he would work harder than any other nominee, an attribute that is essential to the position.

Doug's commitment to the American Legion is evident in his plans as Chaplain. He hopes

to visit all 164 American Legion Posts throughout the state during his one-year term, sponsor workshops at state conventions, and start a Prayer Program that will be mailed to families around the state. Doug enjoys all aspects of the Chaplain position, but he particularly enjoys having an impact on families across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding Doug's civic-mindedness and in recognizing this prestigious honor. This recognition to Doug for the work he does in his community is long overdue, and I am proud to bring his achievements to the attention of this body of Congress today. Congratulations and thanks again, Doug, for your many years of hard work on behalf of Craig and the State of Colorado. May you have many more to come!

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEVE GRISSOM RELIEF FUND ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague NATHAN DEAL and I have introduced the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act.

This legislation would compensate individuals who contracted AIDS through HIV-contaminated blood products and transplants. It is modeled on the bipartisan Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Act of 1998, and honors the late Steve Grissom, a North Carolina resident who was infected with HIV while undergoing treatment for leukemia.

A study conducted by the Institute of Medicine at the request of Congress found that "blood became a vector for HIV infection in the early and mid-1980s and caused more than half of the 16,000 hemophiliacs and over 12,000 blood transfusion recipients to contract AIDS." The Food and Drug Administration, the report claimed, failed to protect the blood supply when it chose not to implement screening options recommended by the Centers for Disease Control in 1983. In addition, the report recommended that a fund be established to compensate people who have become infected with HIV from contaminated blood products.

In 1995, legislation was introduced to help hemophiliacs who contracted HIV through such transfusions. The Ricky Ray Act established a trust fund for making one-time payments of \$100,000 to persons with hemophilia who contacted HIV through tainted blood products. The bill passed with overwhelming support, and was fully funded in 2001. However, the bill did not address the problem of people like Steve Grissom, who received blood transfusions or transplants for other reasons. Our bill would resolve the current inequity and extend the same benefits to non-hemophiliacs, their secondarily infected spouses, and children infected perinatally.

Steve Grissom was a resident of North Carolina's 4th District and my constituent. An Army veteran, Steve was an avid pilot and outdoorsman, a loyal husband, a loving father, and a tireless advocate for others. He advanced legislation for terminally ill parents at the state level, and founded the National Association for Victims of Transfusion-Acquired

AIDS (NAVTA) organization. In 1998, he tried very hard to get individuals like himself included in the Ricky Ray Act. However, rather than contribute to the demise of this legislation, Steve pulled back so that at least some would be compensated for the horrors that occurred during the early 1980s.

Americans who have contracted AIDS through HIV-contaminated products deserve the same consideration regardless of whether they are hemophiliacs. We owe it to people like Steve Grissom, and their survivors, to try and compensate for this terrible tragedy.

I invite my colleagues to join us in completing the work begun with the Ricky Ray Act by cosponsoring the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington, the most significant civil rights demonstration in United States history. The march was a watershed event that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people of all ages, races and religions traveled from every corner of America to Washington on "freedom" buses and trains. Some participants walked as far as 230 miles to reach our nation's capital. The march was by far the largest and most peaceful of its time and its volume greatly exceeded the expected 100,000 participants. The purpose of the March for Jobs and Freedom was to encourage passage of the Civil Rights Act presented to Congress by President John F. Kennedy. The United Auto Workers union, one of the march's biggest sponsors, printed hundreds of signs with slogans such as "UAW Says Jobs and Freedom for Every American."

My dear friend, colleague and genuine American hero JOHN LEWIS, had the honor of speaking alongside Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who concluded the event with his renowned "I Have A Dream" speech. Dr. King's eloquent words should be remembered today: "When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Reverend King's powerful words did not fall on deaf ears. After President Kennedy's tragic death, his successor President Lyndon Johnson, in his first address to Congress and the nation, called for the passage of the Civil Rights Act. "Let us continue," he declared, promising that "the ideas and the ideals which [Kennedy] so nobly represented must and will be translated into effective action." Finally, on July 2, 1964, President Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the most important piece of civil rights legislation in United States history.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I voted for that historic civil rights bill. I am proud of the work Congress and the Administration has done in the past 40 years to guarantee equal rights to all Americans. I ask that you and all of my colleagues rise to join me in commemorating the anniversary of this remarkable event.

HONORING WEY AND SUE CHEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a pair of selfless community servants and dedicated parents, Wey and Sue Chen of Greeley, Colorado. As active members of the Colorado community, they are this year's recipients of the Excellence in Parenting Award presented by the National Parents Day Council. I would like to join with the Colorado community in honoring the Chens and their commitment.

The Excellence in Parenting Award is a unique tribute, honoring immigrants who, as parents, demonstrate exemplary leadership and parenting skills. The Chens are deserving recipients; after arriving in the U.S. from China, they have worked hard to create new lives for their children in America. They frequently volunteer at their children's schools, and have become involved in a variety of Chinese-American organizations. The couple has raised two wonderful children, Elisa and Davis, who are a testament to their hard work and dedication as parents. Davis is currently enrolled at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Elisa is enrolled at the University of Northern Colorado. They serve as examples to their fellow classmates by practicing the lessons that were passed on to them by their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the Chen's civic-mindedness, family values, and in recognizing this prestigious honor. This recognition to the Chen's for the work they do in their community is long overdue, and I am proud to bring their achievements to the attention of this body of Congress today. Congratulations and thanks again for your many years of hard work and your inspiring dedication to your two children.

HEAD START, H.R. 2210

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus to oppose H.R. 2210, which the leadership in the House of Representatives will bring to the floor this week.

Since the beginning of the program, Head Start has provided the foundation for low-income working families. Upon this foundation, thousands of adults throughout South Texas have overcome tremendous obstacles to break the cycle of family poverty and become productive citizens. Without the solid base pro-

vided by Head Start, the children and families in the 21st Century will have a much harder time trying to get a start on education, nutrition habits, and other simple health care and educational needs.

In South Texas, we have a long and successful relationship with Head Start. In my district alone, Head Start serves nearly 4,000 kids from birth to 5 years old.

Tonight, I want to share with you stories from people who have used this program so our colleagues will understand precisely what we will be taking away from the children of Texas and other states around the nation if the House passes H.R. 2210.

Cynthia del Angelo—She and her twin sister attended Head Start in 1973. They both own their own daycare centers now. Her mother received all of her education through Head Start, and is now an Education Coordinator. Her father is currently an area manager of a Head Start center. Her husband is a restaurant manager. They both feel that Head Start contributed to their success by instilling in them the confidence that they could achieve anything.

Jose Carrizales—Attended Head Start in 1965 in a small, rural community. Changed him from a shy, skeptical boy into a secure, loving kid with self-confidence. Later, having become a parent of a Head Start child, he was elected President of the Parent Committee, where the leadership skills he gained led him to a 6-year employment as the District Office Manager for Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ. He now is the Director of Family Services for Head Start in South Texas.

Maricela Vasquez Vitt—Former Head Start student now teaches elementary school in Los Fresnos, Texas. Head Start allowed her to learn English before she started school, and form a strong educational foundation.

Jo Ann Garcia—She and her sister are both Head Start students and are now Registered Nurses. Jo Ann has worked with cancer patients in a major hospital and as Director for a Home Health Provider, and says that neither one is as rewarding for her as working with Head Start kids.

These are the everyday people who have been profoundly affected by the good works of Head Start. These are the sorts of people in the future who will be without similar services and without the foundation now provided by Head Start.

TRIBUTE TO TONY MOREY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a truly talented artist from my district, Tony Morey of Grand Junction, Colorado. Tony has painted a variety of murals throughout the community, helping businesses gain notoriety while brightening up our buildings and streets. Tony's murals are more than just advertisements for local businesses; they are works of art that I am proud to speak about today.

Tony began his art career early in life and began working for a sign company after high school graduation. He shortly realized he wanted to expand his art career, so he began

to paint murals. Eventually finding his way to Grand Junction, Tony has continued with his murals, decorating buildings with advertisements for local businesses. Tony will soon begin work on his second mural at the Bottle Shop, where his work has been credited with an increase in business. Some of Tony's most recognizable work includes murals for Mesa Pawn and the Eagle Lodge.

Tony's ambitions are leading him to experimenting with work on traditional canvas. He hopes to someday display his art in a show, exhibiting the hard work and dedication he puts into every painting. I have no doubt that, with Tony's diligence, we will soon see his paintings on display across the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Tony Morey. His artwork brings happiness to the streets of Grand Junction while providing businesses with a cheap, effective advertising technique. I look forward to the advancement of Tony's career and I wish him the best with his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC., ON BEING AWARDED THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE BY THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my heartiest congratulations to Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) on being one of the four agencies nationwide to be awarded the "Award for Excellence in Community Action" by the National Community Action Partnership.

This prestigious and coveted award is given to Community Action Agencies that demonstrate their excellence through many programs that improve communities and help people change their lives. I have long known that MEO is one of the best Community Action Agencies in the nation and this award at long last recognizes this fact. MEO's innovative efforts have transformed Maui County residents' lives and have had a lasting impact on the entire community.

I would like to especially recognize MEO's Executive Director, Gladys Baisa, for her commitment to excellence and to the people of Maui County. This award is indicative of Gladys' leadership and also a testament to the staff she has surrounded herself with. I am proud to work closely with Gladys and MEO to make Maui County and the State of Hawaii a better place.

Mahalo nui loa to the MEO board and all of its great staff. Keep up the good work and always know that it is truly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN GRAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I stand before you today to pay

tribute to the life and passing of Dean Gray, a resident of Grand Junction, Colorado. For three years Dean volunteered at KAFM radio, a station that showcased his musical passion, jazz. Dean's hard work and dedication to KAFM made him a popular presence at the station, as he provided exemplary leadership and friendship to the other employees. I am honored to speak of the accomplishments of Dean before this body of Congress and this nation here today.

Dean and his wife Jean moved to the Grand Junction area 10 years ago, relocating from the jazz-rich city of Chicago. Chicago provided an ideal atmosphere for jazz connoisseurs, offering a variety of clubs, concerts, and musicians that are based in that area. The couple's passion for jazz grew, and when they arrived in Grand Junction, they immediately tuned to KAFM Community Radio. As a retired member of the community, Dean wanted to expand his involvement in the jazz world. This passion for music led Dean to volunteer as a programmer for KAFM, and his hard work and dedication landed him his own show on Sunday mornings. Dean was an instant hit; he was happiest when listeners called in, telling him how much they enjoyed the show. The station appreciated Dean's dedication so much that he was recently honored with a party and plaque thanking him for his hard work at the station.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of such a kind and caring individual. Dean's commitment, compassion, and hard work garnered him respect at KAFM, and it is for those very qualities that I bring his life to the attention of my colleagues here today. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Dean Gray.

HONORING ROBERT AND MARGUERITE STEELE AS "PARENTS OF THE YEAR"

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert and Marguerite Steele who reside in Xenia, Ohio in the 7th Congressional District, who have received the "Parents of the Year" Award for 2003 by the National Parents' Day Council.

Mr. and Mrs. Steele have worked very hard to be both responsible parents to their children, while helping the larger "family" of the local community.

Robert Steele has served in the military and is active with the local American Legion. Through his work with the Legion, the couple has instituted community programs for the less fortunate, where area children can participate in life-enhancing and educational activities. The Steeles' outreach efforts have helped bring about better cooperation and understanding between racial groups in the community.

This honor exemplifies Robert and Marguerite's commitment to strengthening the concept of family, which we Americans value above virtually all other things. Their community work and involvement in the lives their own children are ample justification for this award.

As the Congressman who represents Xenia, Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives, I

offer my sincere congratulations to Robert and Marguerite Steele for this achievement. It is an honor to recognize their outstanding leadership and the exemplary character they have shown as parents.

TRIBUTE TO GLADYS McBEE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the passing of a woman from my district who spent a lifetime in the service of others. Gladys McBee of Durango, Colorado recently passed away, and as her friends and loved ones mourn their loss, I would like to recognize a few of her many achievements here today.

Born in La Plata in 1917, Gladys settled in Durango where she became well known in the community for her enthusiastic involvement in numerous causes. She helped establish the Durango and LaPlata Senior Center and spent 20 years working with seniors at the San Juan Area Agency on Aging. As a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the League of Women Voters, Gladys helped foster patriotism and educate others of our nation's unique heritage. She continued these efforts through numerous articles about the Constitution and Bill of Rights for her local newspaper, the Durango Herald. Many people in Durango also knew Gladys for her extensive involvement in water issues and the Animas Museum, Durango's only history museum.

Mr. Speaker, Gladys McBee continually worked to improve the lives of others, and she is certainly deserving of praise before this body today. She is survived by her sister Aileen, son Douglas, grandson Teddy and other extended family members. Our thoughts are with them during their time of bereavement. To her family, friends, and the many people in the community who knew her, Gladys McBee will be deeply missed.

RAUL RIVERO MUST NOT DIE IN CASTRO'S PRISONS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Raul Rivero is the dean of independent journalism in Cuba, having founded in 1995 Cuba Press, a news agency for independent journalists in Cuba. Mr. Rivero is also a world acclaimed poet and writer. His articles have appeared in publications such as The Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post. He has been recognized by such prestigious organizations as Reporters Without Borders. However, in totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Rivero is banned from publishing. In fact, the Castro regime is so threatened by Mr. Rivero's writing that in March Castro sent his thugs to his home to arrest him and 75 other dissidents and subsequently sentenced Mr. Rivero to 20 years in prison.

In 1991 Mr. Rivero, along with 10 other intellectuals, signed a petition to the Castro re-

gime calling for the liberation of all prisoners of conscience. Of the 10 signatories Mr. Rivero is the only one still living in Cuba and now finds himself in Castro's gulag for simply daring to write in his own country. Mr. Rivero must not die in Castro's prisons. Mr. Rivero and all political prisoners must be liberated now!

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment offered by my friend from Colorado, MARK UDALL.

My colleagues, the reason we have so many funding limitation amendments to this bill is not because of the actions of Chairman TAYLOR and the Appropriations Committee in general. It's because the congressional leadership has abdicated its institutional obligations to carry out its oversight responsibilities. And, nowhere is this abdication of responsibility more prominent than in the arena of the environment.

I can understand from some in the west that the federal government owns too much land and that these states should have the first right of refusal. But let's redefine who exactly the federal government is. It's the people of the United States and it's their land. The stewardship responsibilities for these lands, these national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, monuments and wilderness areas are the federal government's in accordance with the laws this institution has adopted in the name of all Americans and with their support. But when an administration disregards a moratorium directed by Congress and proceeds to use an obscure reinterpretation of an arcane mining law to carve up by roads some of America's great treasured landscapes and scenic lands, it has gone too far.

Earlier this year, the Department of Interior amended an existing rule to facilitate right-of-way claims under Revised Statute 2477 (RS 2477), a long ago repealed provision of the Mining Law of 1866. The new regulation will allow any entity to file claims against federal lands, yet the new rule lacks any standard for determining the legitimacy of these claims. As a result of this and other changes, the amended disclaimer rule is being used to establish thousands of new roads potentially through National Parks, Refuges, Forests and Monuments or candidate wilderness sites without even proving any actual need.

You've seen the pictures. Find a footpath, a donkey trail and you can undermine the people's and this nation's expressed desire to protect this land from development and the extraction industry. You say it is not happening, or maybe it is just limited to Utah. Think again.

San Bernardino County in California has actively begun surveying specific routes and mapping claims. This process is 80 percent complete and the county has thus far claimed 4,986 miles, 2,567 of which are in the Mojave National Preserve. The county has requested the Department of Interior waive the \$100 filing fee because they have so many RS 2477 claims the cost to the county to file all of these claims would be prohibitive. I am puzzled how they may lack the money to file these claims, but will somehow find the money to build all these roads?

I doubt more than a fraction of these claims will ever give rise to a road, but the claims will prove sufficient to block federal, state and local efforts to protect the land these road claims bisect. Mr. Chairman, what the public would never support through legislation, the administration is doing by stealth. And, while these actions may succeed at removing these lands from federal protection, they will create a host of new liabilities and unfunded costs.

In some states, including California and New Mexico, state law makes the local jurisdictions liable for failure to maintain a roadway. I wonder what future lawsuits we may be inviting when these localities will be sued for injuries caused by hazardous conditions on roads that were never built?

Given the tens of thousands of claims that have been received, I fail to see corresponding increases in the Bureau of Land Management's budget to process them. Will the granting of rights-of-way, create any new financial obligations for the federal government? What costs, including environmental assessments and litigation might be involved?

Mr. Chairman, this policy is an abomination. The administration needs to be reigned in and the purse strings are all that we have available. Support the Udall amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN
MERCHANT MARINE FOR A JOB
WELL DONE DURING OPERATION
IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the members of the American Merchant Marine for exemplary service to our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our nation owes them a debt of gratitude for delivering goods and keeping our troops supplied during a very trying time. Without the Merchant Marines, our armed forces would have faced insurmountable obstacles during their mission in the Persian Gulf.

Our maritime industry accounted for more than 80 percent of the supplies that were moved into Kuwait and Qatar for use in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Over 5000 mariners, from midshipmen to seasoned licensed marine officers, took part in the massive effort. They braved the seas in unarmed vessels full of explosive cargoes, and even volunteered to take anthrax and smallpox vaccinations to protect against biological attack. They moved nearly 21 million square feet of cargo in four

months—the equivalent, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers stated, of shipping everything in the Pentagon three times.

On May 22, 2003, Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta said, "There is no more devoted a community of professionals than those who serve our nation's marine transportation system." I wholeheartedly agree with this statement. Since the founding of our great nation, the men and women of our maritime industry have shown great dedication to the ideals on which America was founded.

In peacetime, and in wartime, our maritime industry provides the vital lines of communications that keep our manufacturers producing, our farmers growing, and our consumers buying. Without the Merchant Marines, the American economy would grind to a screeching halt.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important contributions made by our Merchant Mariners and their unwavering commitment to America's freedom and prosperity. Participation in the most recent war in Iraq is just another example of our Merchant Marine's dedication to our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF GENE VERDU, EXEC-
UTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH-
WESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR
OLDER PERSONS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career and retirement of Gene Verdu, Executive Director of the Southwestern Illinois College Programs and Services for Older Persons (PSOP).

August 31, 2003, will mark the end of an era of dedicated service as Eugene "Gene" Verdu retires from his position as the Executive Director of PSOP. Gene has dedicated his life to helping others. Throughout his 30-year career, he has touched the lives of thousands of people as he built and developed one of the finest social service agencies in the State of Illinois. From Belleville to Belize, Gene's generosity, passion and spirit have had a positive impact on family, friends, colleagues and constituents. His visionary leadership and tireless efforts to constantly improve the lives of others will be missed.

Throughout his career, Gene has served people, first as a teacher from 1963–1968. Moving from teaching young people to serving the needs of the elderly, Gene became the Director of the local Foster Grandparent Program in 1968 and served in that position until 1973. In 1973, Gene became the Director of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and served in that position until he was named the Director of the PSOP in 1975.

While serving our area's senior citizen population, Gene developed one of the first comprehensive "Preparation for Retirement" courses and educational materials. He orga-

nized and administered local Foster Grandparent programs, the Senior Companion Program, Senior Nutrition and Development programs, as well as Senior Transportation programs. Gene also developed, organized and taught several statewide training seminars related to the subject of aging and established one of the first electronic telephone reassurance programs for the homebound elderly.

Gene served as a delegate to the 1971, 1981, and 1995 White House Conferences on Aging and served on national committees for the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Council on Aging and the National Council of Senior Citizens. He assisted the State of Illinois by organizing the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens and lobbying the state to create the Department on Aging. Gene also helped establish the Illinois Gerontology Consortium.

Gene has been the recipient of many community awards, among them the Medal of Merit by the Belleville Rotary Club, the Studs Terkel Humanitarian Award, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award and the Outstanding Administrator Award from Belleville Area College. He has also received the Distinguished Community Service Award from St. Clair County and the Liberty Bell Award from the St. Clair County Bar Association.

Through Gene's work as the Director of PSOP, the elderly of the community are treated with respect and dignity. Their needs are met by the services PSOP offers: congregate meals, meals delivered to homebound elderly, transportation, employment, companionship, workshops and activities, travel opportunities, wellness clinic, volunteer opportunities, advocacy, counseling, outreach programs, and more. Recently, I was happy to work with Gene to secure more than \$900,000 to help finance the construction of an addition to the PSOP building at 201 North Church Street.

In addition to his work with the elderly, Gene still has a place in his heart for children. He continues to touch the lives of young handicapped children through the Belize Crippled Children's Program. He spends much of his spare time promoting this program, recruiting host families for the children who receive medical treatment at Shriner's Hospital in St. Louis, arranging travel to and from Belize for the children, and often escorting them himself, and traveling to Belize to assist with the medical clinics which are held to select the children for the program.

As a result of his many years of dedication to the Belize Crippled Children's Program, he was appointed Honorary Consul of Belize for the Greater St. Louis/Southern Illinois Area and serves as Secretary-Treasurer to the St. Louis Consular Corps.

If a person, no matter what age, race, or religion, is in need, Gene will lend a helping hand. If there is a situation that needs correcting to benefit others, he will fight to correct it.

The PSOP program helps approximately 12,000 seniors every year and he has helped hundreds of children through the Belize Crippled Children's Program. His life has made a definite impact on thousands of people, thus making the world a better place. Gene Verdu is a true humanitarian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Gene Verdu and wish him the best in the future.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment by my colleague from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO). Wildfires are a serious problem but we should not be undercutting an investment in our future. Build fewer roads in our national forests and I'll bet you'll have more money to fight forest fires and maybe even have fewer forest fires to fight.

Mr. Chairman, this is a cynical amendment. Why target just the NEA? What has NEA done to deserve such spitefulness? Since its creation in 1965, the NEA has issued more than tens of thousands of grants. Of this total, fewer than 20 have been considered controversial. Match that 20 against grant recipients who received 35 of the past 46 National Book Awards, National Book Critics Circle Awards and Pulitzer Prizes in fiction and poetry since 1990.

Match it against the grant recipients of PBS's Great Performances who were nominated for 121 Emmys and won 51 Emmys. The arts are vitally important to the intellectual and cultural growth of our nation. The contributions that the National Endowment for the Arts have made to such efforts are significant and should be permitted to continue at an even higher funding level. It has worked to enrich American life and culture by promoting knowledge of artistic endeavor, thought and culture throughout the nation. The endowment accomplishes this mission by providing grants for high-quality artistic projects.

Great performances or small, NEA has supported hundreds of professional orchestras, dance companies, and nonprofit theaters, where before NEA's support there were none. As a member of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, I have been privileged to learn more about the NEA through congressional hearings and outside witnesses. Federal funding for music, dance, theater, literature and visual arts is not just about quality of life; it's about investments to fulfill our human and economic potential.

By directing funds toward culturally diverse, educational, community-oriented programs, for example, we provide places where at-risk youth can express themselves creatively rather than destructively. The small seed money NEA provides is an investments in communities across the country that will pay us back many fold in rich dividends. Today, we have a chance to increase our investment funding for this worthwhile program, not retreat from it.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PETER SMITH

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great contributor to civil rights and to the empowerment of people in this country. Peter Smith has worked for almost forty years to promote civil rights and to provide legal services to those who have traditionally been denied such access—African Americans and other minorities, the poor, juveniles, and those with disabilities.

In his Cornell Law School graduating class, he was one of the very few who chose to turn their backs on the prestige and financial rewards that would come to those who entered private law practice. In a period of our history where the fashion was "me first", Mr. Smith has without exception put "you first." And for four decades, the "you" was individuals who for reasons of race, poverty, age or disability were denied equal access.

In 1964, having worked there earlier during law school, Mr. Smith joined the staff of the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice. As a member of the small and elite Appeals and Research Section, he wrote and argued appeals in some of the most significant cases in the civil rights struggle of the 1960s and played a role in drafting the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1966, again breaking new ground, Peter Smith joined the first legal services appellate section in the nation. He argued before the Supreme Court of the United States the landmark case that brought an end to welfare residence requirements. The work that he did in public housing and welfare reform continues to this day to promote the quality of lives of those people who are dependent upon government policy for their very survival.

After five years of working to deliver legal services to those who, because they were poor or minorities, were denied access to such services, Mr. Smith concluded that the problems would never be solved unless the private bar was brought into the struggle. After much effort, he convinced an establishment Baltimore law firm to open a branch office in Baltimore's inner city that would deliver legal services to the underserved the same way the rest of the firm delivered legal services to the privileged. That office, under Smith's leadership, became a model for a number of other law firms in the country.

In 1972, Mr. Smith joined the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Law and, almost immediately, created one of the first clinical legal education programs in the nation—a program with two parallel goals. The first goal was to change the way that law students were educated, by creating an opportunity for students to practice law, representing clients, while under very close supervision—a model that the medical community had long used. The second, and equally important goal was to deliver legal services to a class of people who ordinarily did not have access to such services—juveniles. Smith operated the Juvenile Law Clinic until 1979, representing many clients in administrative and judicial proceedings including before the Supreme Court of the United States where he helped to guarantee key legal rights for juveniles.

Almost without exception, the students who went through his clinic consider that experience to be the most significant of their law school education. In 1979 he spent a sabbatical in England helping to develop clinical legal education there.

In 1991, Smith returned to his childhood home in New Hampshire where he assumed a new challenge—to provide legal services to yet another segment of American society that traditionally had been denied that access—individuals with disabilities whose legal problems were related to their disability. For the last few years Mr. Smith has narrowed that focus even more, representing parents of children with disabilities in cases where the school district was not complying with federal law.

Mr. Speaker, on April 27th, Peter Smith celebrated his 65th birthday. While he continues to actively practice law, delivering legal services to those who have so long been denied that access, I did not want this occasion to pass without acknowledging his long service promoting civil rights for minorities, the poor and the disabled.

TRIBUTE TO JOE MARTIN

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a story from The Charlotte Observer about Joe Martin, a friend since college days, who was diagnosed nine years ago with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Today, Joe says, "I do not have ALS. I had it." Joe wants to change the "doomsday" mentality about ALS, and show that people can survive, as he has for the last nine years. Joe, in fact, has not only survived but has published two books, an autobiography and a novel, and is at work on a third.

Many members will remember Rep. Jim Martin, who left Congress to serve as Governor of North Carolina. Joe is Jim Martin's brother. As you will see from the article, Joe Martin and his wife, Joan, are establishing a web page which may be of interest to Members with constituents who have ALS.

[From The Charlotte Observer, July 23, 2003]

JOE MARTIN TACKLES HIS NEXT CAUSE

(By David Perlmutter)

He can't talk, he can't walk, he can't move a single body part except for a finger, eyes and a few facial muscles, but Joe Martin is on yet another crusade.

Nine years after he was diagnosed with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the former bank executive and now novelist wants to change the thinking about the disease that paralyzed him and, according to that doomsday thinking, should have killed him.

These days, he discusses his illness in the past tense. Martin, 63, is living proof, he says, that people can live—and don't have to die—with ALS.

"For any practical purpose, I do not have ALS. I had it," Martin responded by e-mail. " * * * My survival is just a fact, almost a foregone conclusion."

Soon, he and wife Joan plan to post a new Web site that takes "positive" messages to ALS patients—despite doctors telling them they will die within two to five years.

"Joe wants people to get information that is positive, instead of the sad news," Joan Martin said. "It will talk about living, never about dying. Joe tells people diagnosed with ALS, 'If you have a doctor who talks about dying, get another doctor.'"

Martin also plans to go after investment money for technology he says makes survival an option—for example, the ventilator, a little larger than a laptop computer, that helps him breathe and a feeding tube that prevents him from choking on food. Both have given him renewed hope that he will live to be an old man.

"I knew all along we needed to change the way the world sees ALS, but to what?" he wrote. "If the world concluded that only someone with my money and connections could survive, people with ALS would be more depressed than ever."

Martin, a force in the past for better race relations, is the brother of former N.C. Gov. Jim Martin and a retired bank executive. The ALS Association, he says, argues that many patients don't have his means and therefore "we will give them only palliative care, easing them toward death, then use them to raise money."

"My passion is to save people from that deathtrap."

Jerry Dawson, executive director of the Carolinas ALS Association, said the group's primary mission is: "To help people live with ALS and to leave no stone unturned in the search for a cure."

It is fighting ALS through research and lobbying Congress for research money, he said.

Martin was diagnosed in October 1994. The disease kills nerves controlling arms, legs and muscles used to breathe, swallow and talk. It has the highest mortality rate among degenerative neurological disorders.

In 1941, ALS killed baseball legend Lou Gehrig, whose name is tied to the disease. Patients generally die of respiratory failure.

Martin believes ALS can do nothing else to him, since the ventilator helps him breathe.

"He can't fall. He can't choke. He won't starve. And with a ventilator, he can't stop breathing," Joan Martin said. "... His eyes are never affected by ALS. So nothing else can go wrong with him."

Martin sees three barriers to survival:

Using Lou Gehrig as an icon of death: "In the name of a true American idol, 'advocates' use false claims with impunity..." he wrote in a recent letter to U.S. Rep. Mike Bilirakis, R-Fla., who chairs a House health subcommittee. "How many people refuse treatment, accepting that fate?" The ALS Association's "commitment to death as the only remedy": "My crusade is to put the ALS Association on a different track or put them out of business. They or somebody else can raise more money by telling the truth, without sacrificing lives." Dawson said the association "regards its work with people with ALS... to be its most vital mission."

Technology: "Technology makes survival possible but not attractive. Our Web site will encourage such things as ventilators... and headbands that transform brain waves into words." The average life expectancy after diagnosis, he said, predates new therapies and "assistive equipment."

Though silenced, Martin has become a loud advocate for ALS patients getting the treatment and equipment they need to prolong life. In 1998, he, his brother and friends raised more than \$3 million to build the Carolinas Neuromuscular/ALS Center at Carolinas Medical Center.

Dr. Jeffrey Rosenfeld, the center's director and CMC's chief of neurology, agrees that if Martin's body doesn't create a new problem—such as an infection—ALS can do little more to him.

The center, Rosenfeld said, has adopted a philosophy of aggressively treating symptoms before they become debilitating... Martin, he added, bought into that.

"I agree with Joe that if you're aggressive with the management of the disease, you can most definitely change the course of the disease," he said. "... Joe has opted for the benefits of every aggressive intervention available."

Those interventions are available to everyone treated at the Charlotte center, which pays the cost if the patient can't. Rosenfeld said: "At the center, the patients and needs come first. The financial obligations come second."

Martin is helped by a rare determination and his support system at home, Rosenfeld said.

He's shown he can live with ALS. A year ago, he and Joan traveled overseas, and in December to New York, where they saw plays. He has written two books, one about living with the illness, the other a novel. He's writing a second novel; a computer allows him to type e-mails or faxes by focusing his eyes on letters.

"What Joe wants to show... you can go to the movies, you can see your grandchildren," his wife said. "You can live with ALS."

In the past, Martin has crusaded for causes such as better schools and race relations. He introduced "Race Day," challenging Charlotteans to invite a person of a different race to lunch and to live tolerantly.

Martin knows there is still much to be done, but for now he is focusing on ALS.

Far from declaring victory, he became discouraged and upset last week by the ALS death of friend Glenn Mason of Charlotte.

"Glenn faced ALS with courage and thigh-slapping humor. He was important to changing attitudes about ALS and his death reminds us we have a long way to go."

"... I will accept victory when we make survival a viable and generally available option."